

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2238

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FIELD AZORES

UNCLAS LISBON 1688

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES INTERVIEW

SUMMARY: IN FOREIGN PRESS INTERVIEWS, PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES SAID HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE US WOULD NOT INTERVENE IN PORTUGUESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS; STATED THAT PORTUGAL WISHES TO CONTINUE IN NATO; SUPPORTED A PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY; SAID AFM WOULD RETURN TO BARRACKS IN 3-5 YEARS, IN MEANTIME SERVING AS MOTOR OF REVOLUTION VIA REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, WHICH WOULD BE A POLITICAL ORGAN OF GOVERNMENT AND WOULD RATIFY NEW CONSTITUTION. CONTINUED ROLE FOR PRIVATE ENTERPRISE ENVISAGED. AFM WILL COOPERATE WITH PCP, BUT PCP UNCLASSIFIED

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DOES NOT LEAD THE REVOLUTION. PRIME MINISTER DECLINED TO

ANSWER QUESTION WHETHER HE WAS A COMMUNIST. END SUMMARY.

1. LISBON PRESS MARCH 25 CARRIES EXCERPTS FROM RECENT INTER-VIEWS WHICH PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES GRANTED TO MUNICH NEWSPAPER SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG AND TO THE SPANISH MAGAZINE CAMBIO 16. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

2. RELATIONS WITH US, NATO, SPAIN: ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE US INTERVENTION IN PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE US WOULD NEVER INTERVENE IN PORTUGUESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IF , HOWEVER, THERE WERE FOREIGN AGGRESSION AGAINST PORTUGAL, PORTUGAL WOULD FIGHT FOR ITS INDEPENDENCE. AS FOR NATO, PORTUGAL IS NOT HEADING FOR A PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY AND WANTS TO CONTINUE BEING A MEMBER OF NATO. REGARDING RELATIONS WITH SPAIN, GONCALVES STATED THAT PORTUGAL SEEKS THE MOST CORDIAL RELATIONS POSSIBLE BASED ON MUTUAL NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE OTHER. RELATIONS WITH SPAIN HAVE BEEN "VERY GOOD" SINCE OUSTER OF CAETANO REGIME.

3. AFM AND THE CONSTITUTION: THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) RUNS THE COUNTRY AT PRESENT, WHICH IS A TRANSITION PERIOD. IN THREE TO FIVE YEARS THE AFM WILL RETURN TO THE BARRACKS. HE SAID PERSONALLY HE BELIEVES THAT THREE YEAR PERIOD OF ACTIVE MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS IS MORE PROBABLE. MEANWHILE, AS THE MOTOR OF THE REVOLUTION, THE AFM MUST BE INSTITUTIONALIZED IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION. THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WILL BECOME PART OF THE POLITICAL ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT AFTER THE ELECTIONS AND WILL RATIFY THE CONSTITUTION PRODUCED BY THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

4. ROLE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY; ANY IMPARTIAL OBSERVER, STATED THE PRIME MINISTER, WILL QUICKLY SEE THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY DOES NOT LEAD OUR COUNTRY. THE AFM HAS IN MIND A UNIQUE SYSTEM FOR PORTUGAL, THE GOAL BEING, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CARDINAL POINTS OF AFM PROGRAM IS A NON-PARTISAN STANCE. THIS, HOWEVER, DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE AFM WILL NOT COOPERATE WITH THE COMMUNISTS, WHOSE POLITICAL DYNAMISM IS NECESSARY. GONCALVES WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPORTANT THAT A PLURALITY OF FORCES EXIST IN PORTUGAL AND THAT HE OPPOSES A SINGLE PARTY SITUATION.

5. THE ECONOMY: UNTIL RECENTLY THE AFM HAD NOT DIRECTLY ATTACKED MONOPOLISTIC CAPITAL. NATIONALIZATION OF THE BANKS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES WAS THE FIRST FRONTAL ATTACK. MANY OPPONENTS REMAIN: IN BIG BUSINESS, IN THE BUREAUCRACY, IN THE SCHOOLS, AND AMONG SMALL FARMERS AND MERCHANTS. THE

REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WILL INVOLVE ITSELF MORE FIRMLY IN THE UPCOMING STRUGGLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DEMOCRACY. THE ECONOMY MUST BE AT THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE. THE RHYTHM OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS WILL DEPEND ON SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE FACTORS. WE CANNOT PLAN A PRIORITY HOW THE PROCESS WILL TAKE PLACE. PRIVATE INITIATIVE HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS TRANSITIONAL PHASE. NOW THAT MONOPOLY PRESSURE HAS CEASED TO EXIST, PRIVATE ENTERPRISE CAN DEVELOP MORE CALMLY. WE WANT AGRARIAN REFORM, WHICH OBVIOUSLY HAS ITS PLACE IN THIS PROCESS, BUT WE DO WANT TO FORCIBLY IMPOSE AGRARIAN REFORM.

6. PRIME MINISTER'S POLITICAL AFFILIATION: THE SPANISH JOURNALIST ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER WHEHTER HE WAS A COMMUNIST. GONCALVES DECLINED TO RESPOND, INSTEAD NOTING THAT AFM IS NON-PARTISAN.
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